

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An image pickup apparatus taking a first image including only a background but not an object and a second image including the object, and having a shutter button for releasing a shutter, comprising:

a time measuring portion measuring a time after said shutter button is manually pressed; and

an output selecting portion outputting only a single image taken when a first predetermined period of time is measured by said time measuring portion as one of said first image and second images, and outputting an image taken when a second predetermined period of time is further measured by said time measuring portion after the first period of time as the other of said first and second images, wherein said first image is updated by using an image of a region other than the object region of said second image every time a prescribed period is elapsed.

2. (Previously Presented) The image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a region extracting portion using said first and second images for outputting information of an object region of said second image; and

a recording portion recording positional information data of said object region, and one of data representing said second image and image data included in said object region onto a recording region.

3. (Original) The image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a region extracting portion using said first and second images for outputting positional information of an object region of said second image;

an image composing portion replacing an image in a region other than said object region of said second image with a prepared background image; and

a recording portion recording data of the image composed by said image composing portion onto a recording medium.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a recording portion recording the data of said first image and second image onto a recording medium.

7. (Original) The image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a notifying portion notifying a timing at which pickup of said first image is finished and a timing at which pickup of said second image is started.

8. (Previously Presented) The image pickup apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said recording portion records said positional information data in a compressed form.

9. (Original) The image pickup apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said recording portion records said data in a compressed form.

10. (Currently Amended) An image pickup apparatus taking a first image including only a background but not an object and a second image including the object, and having a shutter button for releasing a shutter, comprising:

a time measuring portion measuring a time after said shutter button is manually pressed; and

an output selecting portion outputting only a single image taken when a first predetermined period of time is measured by said time measuring portion as said first image, and outputting an image taken when a second predetermined period of time is further measured by said time measuring portion after the first period of time as said second image, wherein said first image is updated by using an image of a region other than the object region of said second image every time a prescribed period is elapsed.

11. (New) An image pickup apparatus taking a first image including only a background but not an object and a second image including the object, and having a shutter button for releasing a shutter, comprising:

a time measuring portion measuring a time after said shutter button is manually pressed; and

an output selecting portion outputting only a single image taken when a first predetermined period of time is measured by said time measuring portion as one of said first image and second images, and outputting an image taken when a second predetermined period of time is further measured by said time measuring portion after the first period of time as the other of said first and second images.